

I strongly oppose any efforts to further ease limitations on media ownership. Thanks to the 1996 Telecom Act, radio has become a bastion of corporate control with two companies (including one closely affiliated politically with the current administration) predominating. Ownership limitations are intended to keep a few entities from dominating public speech. I believe democracy would suffer should the already huge conglomerates be allowed to further consolidate their stranglehold over the media. Imagine Disney adding Clear Channel and Gannett to its holdings. Imagine if the networks buy up all of their profitable affiliates. Public speech will be limited as these for-profit corporations provide information not in the public interest, but in their shareholders interest. This proposal is all about more money for a few, already rich companies, at the expense of diversity and public service. Furthermore, I think it is a shameful and disturbing development that the FCC attempted to ram these changes through with almost no public comment. I guess the citizens who own the airwaves just get in the way when the rich are dividing up their billions.